

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 OPR-02 SY-05
A-01 MCT-01 EB-07 COME-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 AID-05
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CU-02 /079 W
-----191023Z 094013/12

O 191117Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 779
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
DIA WASHDC
USIA
CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, EG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS ON JAN. 18 DISTURBANCES

REF: CAIRO 1044 (NOTAL)

1. AHRAM DOMINATED JAN. 19 BY TOUGH STATEMENT BY PRIMIN SALIM CONCERNING DISTURBANCES PREVIOUS EVENING. SALIM NOTES THAT "REJECTIONIST ELEMENTS" HAVE EXPLOITED "NECESSARY ECONOMIC MEASURES" TO COMMIT ACTS OF SABOTAGE AND STIR UP EGYPTIAN MASSES. SALIM NOTES "NATIONAL DUTY DEMANDS THAT SABOTAGE METHODS BE FACED WITH DETERMINATION" AND PLEADS FOR AN ATMOSPHERE OF CALM FOR DISCUSSION OF RECENT CUTS IN GOVERNMENT FOOD SUBSIDIES IN A DEMOCRATIC MATTER. SALIM ALSO NOTES THAT ANY DELAY IN
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FACING EGYPT'S PRESSING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WILL ONLY PUT EGYPT "IN IMPOSSIBLE CONDITIONS FOR FACING THESE PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE."

2. ALL MEDIA, INCLUDING CAIRO RADIO, CARRY MINISTRY OF INTERIOR STATEMENT CONCERNING PREVIOUS EVENING'S DISTURBANCES. MININT STATEMENT EXTREMELY DETAILED, MENTIONING WORKER

STRIKES AND VIOLENCE IN HELWAN, STUDENT DISTURBANCES AT PEOPLES ASSEMBLY, AND INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE IN ALEXANDRIA. MININT STATEMENT EMPHASIZES THAT INSTIGATORS OF JAN. 18 INCIDENTS "COMMUNISTS, TROUBLEMAKERS, AND SOME NASSERIST ELEMENTS" BUT TENDS TO EMPHASIZE THAT MASSES AT LARGE NOT PARTICIPATING IN ACTS OF DESTRUCTION. MININT ESTIMATES OF CROWD SIZE CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN WHAT OBSERVED BY EMBOFFS, BUT NO EFFORT MADE TO COVER UP FACT OF DISTURBANCES.

3. GOE ECONOMIC TEAM, HEADED BY DEPPRIMIN FOR ECON AFFAIRS QAYSUNI, APPEARED ON CAIRO TELEVIONS EVENING JAN. 18 AND QAYSUNI STATEMENTS CARRIED IN JAN. 19 PRESS. QAYSUNI EMPHASIZED THAT ECONOMIC STEPS, PRICE RISES AND REDUCTION OF GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES, REPRESENT FIRST REAL GOE EFFORT TO CONFRONT PRESSING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. WHEN CRITICISM VOICED BY LOCAL EDITORS ALSO ON PROGRAM THAT GOE FAILED TO PREPARE PUBLIC OPINION FOR REDUCTION IN SUBSIDIES AND RESULTANT PRICE RISES, QAYSUNI REPLIED THAT ANY ADVANCE INDICATION THAT PRICE RISES WERE COMING WOULD HAVE ENCOURAGED BLACK MARKET PROFITEERS TO WITHHOLD GOODS FROM MARKET UNTIL RISES WENT THROUGH IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN WINDFALL PROFITS. SALIM STATEMENT AND QAYSUNI REMARKS APPEAR TO INDICATE THAT GOE WILLING TO RECONSIDER SOME OF PRICE RISES BUT NO SPECIFICS GIVEN AND NO PLEDGES MADE THAT RECONSIDERATION WILL RESULT IN POLICY REVERSALS. AHRAM REPORTS THAT VP MUBARAK AND PRIMIN SALIM (PRESIDENT SADAT SILL IN ASWAN AND APPARENTLY HAS NOT REACTED YET TO DISTURBANCES) TO MEET WITH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF EFL TO DISCUSS SITUATION RESULTING FROM PRICE RISES.

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4. COMMENT: DETAILED MINISTRY OF INTERIOR STATEMENT APPEARS TO INDICATE GOE DECISION NOT TO PRETEND THAT DISTURBANCES DID NOT OCCUR AND TO BE HONEST WITH EGYPTIAN PEOPLE, ALTHOUGH STAEMENT QUITE TOUGH AND "COMMUNISTS AND TROUBLEMAKERS" CLEARLY WARNED THAT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO LET SITUATION GET OUT OF CONTROL. ALTHOUGH QAYSUNI POINT THAT PROPER PREPARATION OF PUBLIC FOR PRICE RISES WOULD ENCOURAGE PROFITEERS, IT ALSO TRUE THAT GOE FAILED TO PROVIDE PROPER JUSTIFICATION FOR PRICE RISES WHEN DROP IN SUBSIDIES ANNOUNCED JAN. 18 AND NO EFFORTS WERE MARE TO PROVIDE PHILOSOPHICAL UNDERPINNNING FOR PRICE RISES (WITHOUT GOING INTO SPECIFICS) DURING WEEKS PRECEDING JAN. 19 BOMBSHELL. OFFICIAL STATEMENTS AND WARNINGS APPEAR TO HAVE HAD LITTLE IMPACT ON PUBLIC AS DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUING IN CENTRAL CAIRO AND SUBURBS THIS MORNING.

EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, PRICE TRENDS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770138/aaaabhio.tel
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Litigation History:
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